

Message Text

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ACTION CPR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 USIE-00 NASA-04 SCI-06 SSO-00

NSCE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 PRS-01 DODE-00 PA-03 A-01 OPR-02

INT-08 SY-10 RSR-01 RSC-01 /075 W
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O 111415 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 606

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1552

FOR: S/ CPR - AMB. SMOAK; INFO USIA/ NASA

E. O. 11652: ADS/ DECLASS AFTER VISIT

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJECT: APOLLO 17 ASTRONAUTS VISIT - CAMEROON

REF: STATE 78200, YAOUNDE 1476

1. FONOFF SECGEN OWONO HAS JUST CALLED ME TO SAY THAT THE PRESIDENCY HAS APPROVED AND WELCOMES THE ASTRONAUT VISIT. HE APOLOGIZED FOR THE DELAY IN PROVIDING A RESPONSE CITING THE PRESIDENCY' S PREOCCUPATION WITH NEXT WEEK' S NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

2. WE INDICATED TO FONOFF THAT DATES INITIALLY UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR CAMEROON WERE JUNE 13-14. SHOULD THERE BE ANY CHANGE PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED.

3. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ANY PRESS RELEASES SO THAT WE CAN SO INFORM GURC.

4. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, DOUALA IS THE ONLY AIRPORT IN CAMEROON WHICH CAN ACCOMMODATE PLANES AS LARGE AS BOEING 707. IF ASTRONAUTS ARE TRAVELING BY 707, THEY WOULD NEED TO FLY DOUALA- YAOUNDE ON PLANE NO LARGER THAN BOEING 737.
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DOES DEPT WISH US TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVES WITH GURC
OR DAO FORT LAMY RE DOUALA- YAOUNDE TRANSPORT?

5. TO HELP US ON PLANNING WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY
INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THIS POINT ON NUMBER OF PERSONS
IN PARTY AND OTHER LOGISTIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS.
WILL THERE BE AN ADVANCE- MAN TO WORK OUT DETAILS
OF VISIT?

6. EMBASSY/ USIS INITIAL THOUGHTS ON VISIT INCLUDE POSSIBILITIES
OF MEETING WITH PRESS ON ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT, AUTO CARAVAN
THROUGH YAOUNDE (INCLUDING PASSING THROUGH PRINCIPAL LOCAL
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT), CALL ON PRESIDENT, VISIT TO UNIVERSITY
(MEETING WITH TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF FACULTY OF SCIENCES,
INCLUDING GEOLOGY DEPT), RECEPTION AT RESIDENCE, AND
(SECOND DAY) PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE LEAVING. VISIT MIGHT
ALSO INCLUDE AUTO CARAVAN IN DOUALA EITHER FIRST OR SECOND
DAY.

7. NONE RPT NONE OF FOREGOING HAS YET BEEN DISCUSSED WITH
GURC WHICH WILL BE EXPECTING TO HOLD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS
SOON. PLEASE ADVISE WHEN WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO BEGIN SUCH
TALKS AND PROVIDE WHATEVER GUIDANCE POSSIBLE.
MOORE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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